

What is claimed is:

1. An optical switch, comprising:
  - at least one optical combiner for combining at least two optical
  - 5 pump signals and an input data signal to produce a combined signal;
  - a non-linear optical element for imparting a second-order non-linear effect on the combined signal; and
  - at least one optical splitter for separating the combined signal from said non-linear optical element into respective generated optical bands;
- 10 wherein at least one of said at least two optical pump signals is controllably modulated such that a logic sequence of said input data signal is controllably switched.
2. The optical switch of claim 1, further comprising at least two optical pump sources, each of said sources providing one of said at least two optical pump signals, wherein at least one of said at least two optical pump sources is adapted to controllably modulate its respective optical signal such that a logic sequence of said input data signal is controllably switched and an output signal of said optical switch comprises a multi-band switched optical signal.
- 20 3. The optical switch of claim 1, wherein the frequency of said input data signal is substantially equal to the average of the frequencies of said at least two optical pump sources.
- 25 4. The optical switch of claim 2, further comprising a controller for controlling the modulation of the at least one modulated optical pump source.
5. The optical switch of claim 2, wherein one of said at least two optical pumps is modulated and all other optical pumps are maintained constant.
- 30 6. The optical switch of claim 5, wherein a resulting multi-band switched output signal is substantially a Boolean AND combination of the logic sequence

of said input data signal and the logic sequence of said modulated optical pump signal.

7. The optical switch of claim 5, further comprising a variable delay line for  
5 synchronizing the input data signal and the modulated optical pump.

8. The optical switch of claim 1, wherein said non-linear optical element  
comprises a highly non-linear fiber.

10 9. The optical switch of claim 1, wherein said non-linear optical element  
generates a parametric amplification of the combined signals.

10. The optical switch of claim 9, wherein said second-order non-linear effect  
comprises difference frequency generation.

15 11. The optical switch of claim 9, wherein an output of said optical switch  
comprises a replica of said input data signal and at least three idler signals.

20 12. The optical switch of claim 11, wherein said at least three idler signals  
comprise at least two mirrored idler signals and at least one translated idler  
signal.

13. The optical switch of claim 12, wherein said mirrored idler signals  
comprise input data signal conjugates.

25 14. The optical switch of claim 9, wherein each of the wavelengths of said  
input data signal are converted into multi-band optical signals.

30 15. The optical switch of claim 2, wherein said optical pump sources  
comprise laser sources.

16. The optical switch of claim 1, wherein said at least one optical combiner  
comprises a band splitter.

17. The optical switch of claim 1, wherein said at least one optical splitter comprises a band splitter.

5 18. A method of optical switching using a fiber parametric device having at least two optical pump sources, comprising:

combining a signal from each of said at least two optical pump sources and an input data signal to produce a combined signal;

imparting a second-order non-linear effect on the combined signal; and

10 controllably modulating at least one of said at least two optical pump sources such that a logic sequence of said input data signal is controllably switched.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising separating said combined

15 signal into respective generated optical bands.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein said second-order non-linear effect generates a parametric amplification of said combined signal such that an output of said fiber parametric device comprises a multi-band switched optical

20 signal.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the output of said fiber parametric device comprises at least a replica of said input data signal and three distinct idler bands.